



THE EDITORS

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P.O. Box 567,
Neutral Bay Junction 2089

NEXT MEETING.....NEXT MEETING.....NEXT MEETING

This will take place as usual at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre at 16 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 5 June, 1985.

Speaker: Brian Johns, Publishing Director,
Penguin Books Australia. who will
speak on the directions which he
thinks Australian publishing is
taking.

Cost: \$3 for wine and cheese only
\$12 if you stay for dinner after the meeting.

RSVP: Jenny at Weldon's on 929.5677 by Monday 3 June
if you are attending.

LAST MEETING:

Tom Thompson, National Publications Coordinator for the Australian Bicentennial Authority spoke of the mammoth task ahead for his own Authority, as well as the publishing industry, from which 2000 extra publications can be anticipated for 1988.

As well as tactfully discouraging the eccentric and outrageous schemes attracted to the Bicentennial (or, at least, to its resources) the Authority has lent support to a range of worthy projects. There are 40-60 publications in the National program and subsidies are available for paying anthology rates, editing fees, photographic research, travel costs or simply money in lieu of full-time work.

The Authority will also be funding support materials across a wide range of media - radio readings, television advertising, direct mail and magazine coverage. Posters and other trade materials will be created for booksellers and librarians. Tom estimates that at least 15 books will have supporting television or radio programs.

Part of the long-term coordinating role will be to ensure

that the release of so many publications is staggered according to the natural ebb and flow of the retail year, beginning around Christmas 1987. Publication will also be tied to other events, like the photographic exhibitions of Australian landscapes, and the travelling exhibition of women's arts and crafts.

In recognition of the people behind the books, the Authority is funding achievement awards, as well as a greater writing component in our Arts Festivals. There will be major cash prizes in a range of categories. Editors who have worked on any of the 2000 publications will be pleased to know of Industry Achievement Awards to be announced at Australian Authors Week, 1988. Tom promises survival awards for 1989, the prospect of the party at the end of it all 'where the champagne will flow'.

WORKSHOP FOR FREELANCERS:

Last year The Editors Workshops were about the nitty-gritty of copy editing. This time we thought we would look at the details of an editor's freelance business, since many of the members are in this situation. So we will discuss the overall costings of freelance life, important decisions such as how to quote on a job, the basic relationships between editor and author, editor and publishers and the expectations of both, and the rates being charged currently and how they relate to other similar types of work. From this discussion we might be able to formulate a code of practice for authors.

Date: 29 June
Venue: Kuringai College of Advanced Education
Topic: The Life of a Freelance Editor
Cost: \$18 for members, \$20 for non-members

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF AUTHORS:

A letter in the ASA's March issue of their journal The Australian Author has caused a few repercussions among editors. Author Ruth Park wrote about her experiences with editors and pointed to 'a disturbing rise in the number of invasive publishers' editors'. The tales she told of editorial interference were indeed horrifying and led her to suggest that there are some editors who, probably in all sincerity, apparently believe that the typescript is only a first draft, humbly sent to the master hand to bash around to suit himself.

She felt that the 'duties, rights and responsibilities' of an editor's job had never been officially defined, and proposed that the Society of Authors and the Publishers' Association get together to remedy this.

The Editor's note to the letter informed readers that the next issue of The Author would concentrate on book editing and contributions - 'particularly those with writers' anecdotes about editors' - were welcome.

The Melbourne Society of Editors has written to the ASA pointing out their concern. Here is a summary of Teresa Pitt's letter - While deploring the editorial faux pas Ruth Park describes and sympathising with authors who suffer this fate, Teresa points out that there is a growing concern among book editors about professional standards and practices and the need for adequate training. These days very few young editors receive any systematic supervision or training in-house and thus with the best will in the world mistakes are inevitable. Teresa notes Ruth's suggestion that the Society of Authors and the ABPA jointly define and codify the duties and responsibilities of editors. She believes the ABPA is at present drafting a Code of Practice for Australian Publishers and feels that it would be good if the Society of Editors (Vic.) and The Editors (NSW) were also consulted. She goes on to say that while the next issue of The Australian Author is to be devoted to the subject of book editing neither of the groups of editors mentioned above have been notified about this or invited to contribute. Tale-telling and name-calling between authors and editors isn't helpful and will achieve nothing and Teresa concludes by saying that while responsible editors want to establish productive working relationships with their authors both parties need guidance in this matter.

Jackie Kent (editor/author/member of ASA) has submitted a 3000 word article to The Australian Author, pointing out the problems editors encounter in doing their work, and the constraints of time and money under which they have to operate. For the benefit of authors, Jackie explains the whole process of editing and highlights the need for more communication between publisher, writer and editor.

We have sent the following letter to the ASA:

"As President of The Editors, I agree with the points made in the article by Jackie Kent and in the letter to the

Editor from Teresa Pitt, President of The Society of Editors.

In particular, editors in this society support the view that sitting on opposite sides calling each other names doesn't get us anywhere. There are pitfalls in authoring as in editing and it is hard enough to be a good author or a good editor without approaching that critical meeting point in a belligerent and antagonistic frame of mind. Practical suggestions like the formulation of a code of practice for editors to match the ABPA code of practice for authors are of greater value. Such a code would help to serve as a guideline in an area where there is little protective tradition left and a lot of pressure created."

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

It may seem premature to be planning our Christmas get-together in May, but most popular venues are booked by mid-year, especially for Friday evenings. We're planning a joint function with the Galley Club this year and the committee would welcome suggestions for a pleasant and accessible venue for about 120 people

GALLEY CLUB:

Their next meeting will be held on 22 May (6.30 for 7 p.m.) at the Neutral Bay Club in Barry Street. Matthew Martin, cartoonist on the Sydney Morning Herald, will speak about making cartoons. (This is not a repeat - the last meeting didn't eventuate.) If you'd like to attend (dinner costs \$13), please book by the previous Friday with Pamela Petty or Shelley Evans on 949.2022 (Adis Press).

PROOF-READERS WANTED:

We have received a letter from the NSW Dept of Education, Examinations Division. A small group in this Division is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of SC and HSC exam papers, and they need proof-readers. If you are interested, contact Peter Macinnis on 925.8239 (Work) or 949.5368 (Home).

FREELANCE REGISTER:

A reminder that the absolute deadline for receipt of entries for the Register is 5 June. Contact Jutta Sieverding (808.3459) with any queries.

TAFE:

We hear on the grapevine that the editors' course is at Seaforth in July. Ray Bennett (217.3862) is the contact but he is most elusive.

ABP OFFER:

Michael Webster of D.W. Thorpe has made an offer of subscription to Australian Bookseller & Publisher on the following terms:

"The offer of a free one year subscription is open to all new members of The Society of Editors (and Sydney Editors) and to all members not already subscribers. After 12 months a renewal notice will be sent. Those not wishing to continue must advise Thorpe. We will not refund subscriptions to those who already subscribe."

If you want to avail yourself of this offer please notify The Editors, PO Box 567, Neutral Bay Junction 2089.

FREE ADVERTISING:

Robin Bromby, author of Writing for Profit in Australia, now in its second edition, is producing a guide to the publishing industry in Australia and New Zealand. It aims to help both publishers and writers and will include details of all services available - editing, proof-reading, research, indexing, etc. There is no charge for inclusion - just send in the information requested below before the end of May to Cromarty Press, PO Box 944, Bondi Junction 2022.

Name, Address and Telephone No.

Services offered: (e.g. proof-reading, editing, typing, etc.)

Special Skills/Interests:

Other: (This can include any short statement summing up the services you offer).

ADDRESSES REQUIRED:

If anyone knows the location of the following people, please phone Bruce Champion on 816.2758/9. They have paid subscriptions but we have no mailing addresses for them: KEN DOW, DAVID WILKIE, ALISON WILCOX.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

<u>President</u>	Sue Butler	929.5677
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	Lindsay Knight	92.4205
<u>Minute Secretary</u>	Sue McGrath	498.6843
<u>Freelance Register</u>	Jutta Sieverding	808.3459

The newsletter describing the meeting held on 11 May '88 is missing

The announced speaker were:

Frank Moorehouse

Stirling Macoboy

Gordon Winch.

(I was away overseas).